

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed December 3, 2003 has been carefully reviewed. Applicant respectfully request reconsideration of the claims as submitted with the application at the time of filing.

Claims 1-35 are now pending in the application. Claims 1-35 stand rejected.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vanderaar et. al. (U.S. Pat. App. Pub. No. 2002/0018527) in view of Gilhousen (U.S. Pat. No. 5,751,761). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits the attached declaration under 37 C.F.R. 1.131, illustrating that the subject matter of Claims 1-35 was invented prior to the effective date of Vanderaar et. al., specifically, July 16, 2001. Accordingly, Vanderaar is an invalid reference and a prima facie §103 rejection has not been presented by the Office.

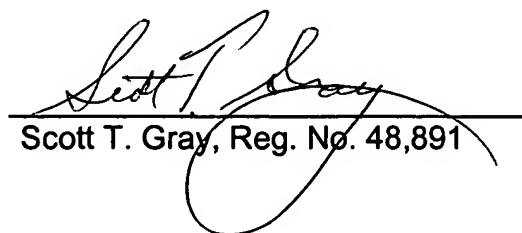
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: FEB 9, 2004

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
5445 Corporate Drive, Suite 400
Troy, MI 48098-2683
(248) 641-1600

By: 
Scott T. Gray, Reg. No. 48,891